

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-10 /070 W

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R 141425Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2581

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11709

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, RO, VT

SUBJECT: ZHIVKNO'S VATICAN VISIT -- FIRST FRUITS

1. IN OUR MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION OF JULY 7, 1975, WE REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND SOFIA THE VATICAN'S EVALUATION OF THE ZHIVKOV VISIT TO THE VATICAN. WE NOTED IN PARTICULAR THE VATICAN EXPECTATION OF FOLLOWING UP THIS MEETING WITH CONCRETE REQUESTS AS A MEANS OF TESTING ZHIVKOV'S STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD WELCOME A DIRECT APPROACH BY "FOREIGN MINISTER" CASAROLI ON THE RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS PERTAINING TO THE 60,000 CATHOLIC MINORITY PRESENT IN BULGARIA. THE FIRST FRUITS OF THIS VISIT WERE APPARENT WITH THE NAMING OF TWO NEW BISHOPS FOR BULGARIA.

2. ON AUG. 5, THE VATICAN ACCOUNCED THAT POPE PAUL VI HAD APPOINTED BOGDAN DOBRANOV, BISHOP OF SOFIA AND PLOVDIV, AND VASCO SERIRECOV, BISHOP OF NIKOPOL. THEIR PREDECESSORS APPAR-

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ENTLY DIED IN JAIL AND THAT TWO DIOCESAN SEES HAD BEEN

OFFICIALLY SINCE 1952.

3. COMMENT: POPE PAUL AND PARTICULARLY ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI,  
WHO SPEARHEADS THE VATICAN'S POLICY OF DETENTE WITH EAST  
EUROPEAN COMMUNIST STATES, ARE REPORTEDLY PLEASED WITH SUCCESS  
IN THIS MATTER SO SOON AFTER REOPENING AN OFFICIAL DIALOGUE  
WITH BULGARIA. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, AMITY, VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** MartinML  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 02 MAY 2003  
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**Subject:** ZHIVKNO'S VATICAN VISIT -- FIRST FRUITS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, RO, VT, (ZHIVKNO)  
**To:** STATE  
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